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JAPAN.

Plague at Osaka—No new cases at Kobe or Hiogo.

KOBE, JAPAN, November 20, 1900.

SIR: I have to report that there has been no further case of plague in Kobe or Hiogo since my report of the 8th instant, making twenty-four days since the last case here.

The plague still continues in Osaka, though on a diminished scale, 7 cases and 7 deaths having occurred during this month.

Respectfully,

J. BUCKWILL FOWLER,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Removal of disinfection of steerage passengers at Yokohama.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, November 27, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt. on 23d instant, of your letter of October 23 (P. McE. and E. B. S. and B. S. W. and J. H. W.), inclosing a copy of a letter from Surg. J. J. Kinyoun, and directing me to renew the practice of disinfecting steerage passengers and their effects at this port.

I am very glad to receive this direct and unconditioned order, for I have always been in favor of routine disinfection of steerage passengers embarking here, as witness the following extract from my letter to you, dated March 18, 1900: "I may add that, unless you disapprove, I shall hereafter disinfect all steerage passengers for United States ports, irrespective of the actual presence of the graver epidemic diseases. * * * To this routine disinfection the steamer men have agreed." To this you responded under date of April 12, 1900: "The Bureau approves the plan suggested by you of disinfecting the effects of all steerage passengers for United States ports, irrespective of the actual presence of the graver epidemic diseases. It is believed to be a wise measure, and, as the steamship companies interpose no objection, you will continue the work which has been established by you." Under this approval, when the steamship companies *did* object, and no plague or other of the diseases provided for by the United States quarantine laws were present in or near Yokohama, or, in fact, had occurred in Japan for over one month, I could not see my way to override the opposition of the shipping interest.

I am unable to carry out your instructions as regards this present steamer, the *Coptic*, as since the receipt of your letter the time has been insufficient to complete the needful arrangements with the steamship companies, or to prepare the necessary premises and apparatus. The steamship companies were notified of the orders for the renewal of disinfection by the inclosed circular at the earliest possible moment.

All passengers, however, who go by the *Coptic* in the lower class, with the exception of certain men discharged from United States naval hospitals, have been under observation in Yokohama for fifteen days or more when there appeared even a possibility that they might have come from or through the infected district.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.